













Madge hesitated, was silent; there was

"No, Mr. Norton, I don't see your way; if the thing is to be done, it is ought to be abolished at once; if it is to be done by degrees, let them be free to do any thing with wrong; overthrow it at once; strike it good and hand blow—that's my doctrine."

"Yes, you are a good-hearted child, and speak for your own generous inexperience. The cure of evil will be the work of years, and a slow work too, I regret to say."

"Well, it means to be slow," said Madge. "If people are earnest in what they say. I don't see why you are so tampering with slavery as it now exists. If it is to be done, it is ought to be abolished at once; if it is to be done by degrees, let them be free to do any thing with wrong; overthrow it at once; strike it good and hand blow—that's my doctrine."

fight it; you wouldn't tell me to gradually abandon the practice of lying and stealing; you would say, quit it once. The temperance preacher tells the drunkard to give up drinking at once, not even to handle the bottle touch not and taste not. Let the anti-slavery preacher teach the same. When you once convince the slaveholders of the wrong of keeping slaves, they will give them up."

“Of course they will. People wouldn't do wrong if they knew it; they are deceived.”

Madge became so deeply interested in the conversation that she remained several hours. Her wish was to find her friend and lover chime in with her own feelings. But Norton good-bye. Madge insisted that she should come out to the “Vernier place” and that they should talk the matter over in her father's and Mr. Deane's presence.

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